

REMARKS

The Examiner seems to have taken the first paragraph of the specification to be an attempted incorporation by reference of a foreign application. This paragraph was only meant to refer to the foreign priority document under 35 U.S.C. §119(a). However, since the claim of priority to this European application was made by the inventors in their declaration submitted at the time of filing of this application in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §119(b), this referencing first paragraph is not needed and has been deleted.

The paragraph beginning on page 5, line 7 of the specification (which is also paragraph [0022] of the publication of this application, US2007/0018809) has been amended by changing the response signal reference from M' to S'. When the response signal was introduced in the previous paragraph it was referred to as S'. This amendment makes the amended paragraph consistent with the previous paragraph and also consistent with the drawings, where Fig. 1 shows response signal S'.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the description requirement. Applicants' attorney has provided claim charts which are attached below which show the support of the elements of the independent Claims 1 and 7 in the specification. However, this rejection may have its basis in what is shown in PAIR. The PAIR file for this case seems to have two specifications loaded into it, the 7-page specification for this case and an 11-page specification which is the specification for another case, serial number 10/509,232 with the same first-named inventor. Since this may be the root of this rejection, applicants' attorney will forego a detailed discussion of the claim charts, which show clear support for the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks and the attached claim charts, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-9 are supported by the specification. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Claim Charts Showing Support for Claims 1 & 7

Claim 1:	Specification support:
<p>1. A device arranged for carrying-out a bioelectrical interaction with an individual through electrodes and detecting undesired contact of an electrode with the individual, said device comprising:</p>	<p>"Figure 1 shows a schematic view of an embodiment of front-end electronics of the device according to the invention" (pg. 4, lines 20-21) [which] "determines that the contact of the electrodes with the individual's skin is below acceptable value" (pg. 5, lines 4-5).</p>
<p>- a plurality of electrodes arranged to receive a physiological electrical signal when brought into contact with an individual's skin;</p>	<p>"The device 1 comprises the sensing means 6 provided with two electrodes 8,9 arranged to measure a first electrical signal S when brought into contact with the individual's skin." (pg. 4, lines 21-23)</p>
<p>- testing means arranged to deliver a second electrical signal to an input of the electrodes, said electrodes being further arranged to generate a response signal upon receipt of the second electrical signal;</p>	<p>"The testing means 18 is arranged to generate a test signal by means of a generator 19, said test signal being preferably in-band with the measured signal. The generator 19 is further arranged to apply the test signal T to the corresponding input of the electrodes 8,9. During an application of the test signal T the electrodes 8,9 do not measure the first electrical signal and produce a response signal S', which is supplied to the front-end electronics 7 in the same way as the measured signal S." (pg. 4, line 30 through pg. 5, line 1)</p>

<p>- control unit arranged to analyze the first electrical signal and to actuate the testing means upon an occurrence of a predetermined event in the first electrical signal; and</p>	<p>"[T]he electrodes 8,9 provide a corresponding input signal S to the front-end electronics 7." (pg. 5, lines 8-9) "The control unit 5 comprises a signal interpretation unit 14 arranged to derive a predetermined event 15. For example, for cardiac applications said feature can be a frequency, an amplitude or a signal-to-noise ratio of the signal. Preferably, a reference value of the predetermined event is stored in a look-up table (not shown) of the memory unit 17." (pg. 5, lines 15-19) "The control unit 5 is further arranged to provide a trigger signal to the test means 18 in case the predetermined event is detected." (pg. 5, lines 22-24)</p>
<p>- lead-off detection means arranged to verify an integrity of the contact of said electrodes by analyzing the response signal and detecting a parameter related to said integrity.</p>	<p>"The control unit 5 further comprises a lead-off detection means 14a arranged to verify an integrity of the contact of said electrodes by analyzing the response signal S' and detecting a parameter related to said integrity." (pg 5, lines 25-27) "In case the control unit 5 determines that the contact of the electrodes with the individual's skin is below acceptable value, the lead-off indicator 16 is actuated signalling about a detachment of the electrodes 8,9." (pg. 5, lines 4-6)</p>

Claim 7:	Specification support:
<p>7. A method for on-demand verification of the integrity of an electrical contact of an electrode to a body part of an individual, wherein said electrode is part of a device arranged to carry-out a bio-electrical interaction with the individual, said method comprising the following steps:</p>	<p>"Figure 2 shows a schematic view of an embodiment of a two-lead ECG circuit. In order to carry out an on-demand verification of the integrity of the electrical contact of the electrodes 29,29a, the device 20 comprises a control unit 22 arranged to determine an occurrence of the predefined event." (pg 5, lines 31-34)</p>
<p>- measuring a first electrical signal by means of the electrode;</p>	<p>"[A] wearable article of clothing 44 [is] provided with a carrier 46 on which a set of electrodes 48 is mounted, said electrodes being arranged to monitor the cardiac activity of the individual." (pg. 6, lines 24-26)</p>
<p>- analyzing the first electrical signal for occurrence of a predetermined event;</p>	<p>"The device 40 further comprises a control unit 52 arranged to analyze the signals from the electrodes 48 and to determine an occurrence of a predefined event in accordance with Figure 1." (pg. 6, lines 27-29)</p>
<p>- generating a second electrical signal upon detection of the predetermined event;</p>	<p>"In case it is found that the predetermined event has occurred, for example a signal-to-noise ratio of the measured signal has fallen, the control unit 52 actuates the test means 50 which is arranged to deliver a test signal ..." (pg. 6, lines 29-32)</p>
<p>- generating a response signal by applying the second electrical signal to an input of the electrode;</p>	<p>"... to the electrodes. The response signals generated by the electrodes..." (pg. 6, lines 32-33)</p>
<p>- analyzing the response signal for detecting a parameter related to said integrity.</p>	<p>"... are analyzed by the control unit 52 in order to determine a parameter related to the integrity of the contact of the electrodes." (pg 6, lines 33-34)</p>